



## 'Re-staging the Object: A participatory exploration of Long Kesh/Maze Prison' Workshop

O'Beirn, A., & Krenn, M. (2019). 'Re-staging the Object: A participatory exploration of Long Kesh/Maze Prison' Workshop. In *Uncovering Material Knowledge' conference* Queen's University Belfast.

[Link to publication record in Ulster University Research Portal](#)

**Published in:**  
Uncovering Material Knowledge' conference

**Publication Status:**  
Published (in print/issue): 31/08/2019

### General rights

Copyright for the publications made accessible via Ulster University's Research Portal is retained by the author(s) and / or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

### Take down policy

The Research Portal is Ulster University's institutional repository that provides access to Ulster's research outputs. Every effort has been made to ensure that content in the Research Portal does not infringe any person's rights, or applicable UK laws. If you discover content in the Research Portal that you believe breaches copyright or violates any law, please contact [pure-support@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:pure-support@ulster.ac.uk).

## **'Re-staging the Object: A participatory exploration of Long Kesh/Maze Prison' Workshop in 'Uncovering Material Knowledge' conference, Queen's University Belfast**

Saturday Aug 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 10:00-11:30am, Council Chamber, Lanyon Building

Aisling O'Beirn (Ulster University)



'Re-staging the Object: A participatory exploration of Long Kesh/Maze Prison' Workshop participants, Queen's University

This workshop was conducted as part of the cross disciplinary conference Uncovering Material Knowledge, Queen's University Belfast organised by Dr. Leonie Hannan, Lecturer in Eighteenth-Century History, School of History, Anthropology, Politics and Philosophy, Queen's University, Belfast. The conference was supported by Queen's University Belfast, 'Past & Present' and the 'Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry'.

The conference 'included scholars from the arts, humanities and social sciences to participate in a discussion about the development, experience and construction of material knowledge in the past. Contributions came from a wide range of historical eras, from the ancient through to the modern. This conference sought to break with the age-old separation of hand and mind and uncover examples of material and embodied knowledge across a broad range of periods, geographical locations, spaces and places'.

The workshop conducted by O'Beirn, grows from 'Transforming Long Kesh/Maze' - a project led by artist-researchers, Aisling O'Beirn and Martin Krenn, that asks how perceptions of this Northern Irish prison might be transformed, with a view to positively engaging with the knotty realities of the recent past. Through collaboration and dialogue with ex-prisoners, former visitors and prison staff, the project uses an experimental methodology involving the re-staging of prison-made artefacts, re-appropriation of material methods and re-tellings of stories through object-making. The result is a social sculpture comprised of image, object and text and this will form the basis for discussion in this session.

Workshop participants were introduced to Krenn & O'Beirn's methodology and then worked with a set of postcards of artefacts and testimonies, for creating associations between the material and other artefacts, which were produced as part of the project. Participants will employed some associative domino techniques devised and developed by Nora Landkammer and Karin Schneider (TRACES workpackage "education and stakeholder involvement" from the "Institute of Art Education" at the ZhdK), for using the cards to interrogate the material nature of this contested heritage. In devising their "Memory-Domino for contentious cultural heritage" methods, Landkammer & Schneider draw on the work of Andrea Hubin from Kunsthalle Wien.

Aisling O'Beirn is an artist and researcher at the Belfast School of Art. Her current sculptural work is concerned with exploring space as a physical structure and a political entity by making and animating forms relating to observed and theoretical structures being studied by contemporary astronomers and physicists. It is an extension of previous work on the politics of place, but still rooted in uncovering tensions between disparate forms of official and unofficial information.

Martin Krenn is an artist, artistic researcher and curator. He teaches at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna, Austria. Krenn graduated in Electronic Music at the University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna, in 1996 and holds an M.A. (Mag. art.) from the University of Applied Arts, Vienna, since 1997.

<https://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/happ/News-and-Events/UncoveringMaterialKnowledge.html>

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/media/Media.882111.smxx.pdf#search=Uncovering%20Material%20Knowledge>

<http://www.historians.ie/conference-uncovering-material-knowledge-qub-30th-and-31st-august-2019/>





# Uncovering Material Knowledge

Friday 30 – Saturday 31 August 2019

Queen's University, Belfast

This conference invites scholars from the arts, humanities and social sciences to participate in a discussion about the development, experience and construction of material knowledge in the past. Sessions include panels and practical workshops.

For further details and registration:

<https://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/happ/News-and-Events/UncoveringMaterialKnowledge.html>.

## Keynotes:

Professor David Livingstone (Queen's University)

Professor Pamela H. Smith (Columbia University)

Professor Chandra Mukerji (University of California)

SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY  
OF ALCHEMY AND CHEMISTRY



PAST & PRESENT  
*A Journal of Historical Studies*



QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST

Poster Advertising Conference

**Uncovering Material Knowledge Programme**  
**Queen's University Belfast**  
**30-31 August, 2019**

<b>DAY 1 FRIDAY 30 AUGUST</b>			
09:30-10:00	Registration & coffee – Canada Room, Lanyon Building		
10:00-11:30	Keynote: <b>Chandra Mukerji</b> (Science Studies, University of California), 'Artisans of the Louvre' Council Chamber, Lanyon Building		
11:30-13:00	<p><i>Session 1 Technique and Embodied Knowledge</i> Council Chamber, Lanyon</p> <p><b>Tabitha Baker</b> (History, University of Warwick) 'False Workers, Real Skill: Knowledge Production in the Embroidery Trade of Eighteenth-Century France'</p> <p><b>Jasmine Kilburn-Toppin</b> (History, University of Kent) 'Metallurgical Experiment and Knowledge Cultures in Early Modern London'</p> <p><b>Reetta Sippola</b> (History, University of Turku) 'The embodiment of natural philosophy on Cook's voyages'</p>	<p><i>Session 2 Learning at Home</i> Lanyon, Ground Floor, room 54</p> <p><b>Jane Hamlett</b> (History, Royal Holloway, University of London) 'Pet-Keeping as Material, Tactile and Embodied Knowledge'</p> <p><b>Chloe Wigston Smith</b> (English, University of York) 'Making Knowledge, Making Women in Hannah Robertson's <i>The Young Ladies School of Arts</i>'</p>	
13:00-14:00	Lunch – Canada Room, Lanyon Building		
14:00-15:30	<p><i>Session 1 Craftsmen and Consumers</i> Council Chamber, Lanyon</p> <p><b>John Grayson</b> (Birmingham City University) 'Craftsmanship-framed Inquiry: (Re) Making Eighteenth-century Midland Enamels'</p> <p><b>Ben Jackson</b> (Queen Mary University of London) 'Male Material Literacies: A Case Study of Eighteenth-Century Carriage Design'</p>	<p><i>Session 2 Colonial matters: Empire, materials and Everyday Knowledge in the nineteenth century</i> Lanyon, Ground Floor, room 54</p> <p><b>Sarah Longair</b> (History, Lincoln University) 'Remote knowledge in the Indian Ocean: material representations of the Maldives in the age of empire'</p> <p><b>John McAleer</b> (History, University of Southampton) 'Immortalised in spirits': William Henry Harvey and the practicalities of natural history collecting in Britain's 19th-century world'</p> <p><b>Rohan Deb Roy</b> (History, University of Reading) 'The white ant's burden: Insects, materials and metaphors in British India'</p>	
15:30-16:00	Coffee		
16:00-17:30	Keynote: <b>David Livingstone</b> (Geography, Queen's University Belfast) 'Slavery, Short-Horn Cattle, and the Theology of Evolution' Council Chamber, Lanyon Building		
17:30-19:00	Reception followed by conference dinner – Canada Room, Lanyon Building		

DAY 2 SATURDAY 31 AUGUST			
09:30-10:00	Registration & coffee – Canada Room, Lanyon Building		
10:00-11:30	<p><i>Session 1 Print, Manuscript &amp; Materiality</i></p> <p>Council Chamber, Lanyon</p> <p><b>Caroline Sumpter</b> (English, Queen's University Belfast) 'Democracy, Evolution and Ethics: Reading the Cheap Press as Material Culture'</p> <p><b>Tim Somers</b> (History, Queen's University, Belfast) 'The Production and Consumption of Micrography in Later Stuart Britain'</p> <p><b>Jessica McIntyre</b> (Leeds Beckett University) 'The Intellectual and Material Roles of Mid-Victorian Irish Culinary Manuscripts'</p>	<p><i>Session 2 Attending to and Articulating the Material World in Eighteenth-Century Britain</i></p> <p>Lanyon, Ground Floor, room 54</p> <p><b>Serena Dyer</b> (Humanities, De Montfort University) 'Pens, Brushes and Needles: Vocabularies of Women's Material Literacy in the Eighteenth Century'</p> <p><b>Elizabeth Spencer</b> (History, University of York) 'A Shared World of Words? Describing Women's Clothing in Eighteenth-Century England'</p> <p><b>Kate Smith</b> (History, University of Birmingham) 'Attending to the Material World: Identifying detail in the eighteenth century'</p>	<p><i>Session 3 Material Culture Workshop</i></p> <p>Max. x20</p> <p>Lanyon, Senate Room</p> <p>Workshop with artist-researcher, <b>Aisling O'Beirn</b> (Ulster University), focused on her project on the material culture of the Maze/Long Kesh prisons in Northern Ireland.</p>
11:30-13:00	<p><i>Session 1 Wax Fruit Workshop (Part 1)</i> Max. x15 Crescent Arts Centre, University Road</p> <p>Hands-on workshop with historian of science <b>Marieke Hendriksen</b> (University of Utrecht) to explore forms of embodied knowledge through making wax fruit.</p>	<p><i>Session 2 Object-based Knowledge</i></p> <p>Lanyon, Ground Floor, room 54</p> <p><b>Frances Osis</b> (Humanities, University of Glasgow) 'Anatomical Specimens and Embodied Knowledge'</p> <p><b>Stuart Mathieson</b> (History, Queen's University Belfast) 'Material Knowledge and Competing Epistemologies: a case study from the Holy Lands'</p> <p><b>Morwenna Blewett</b> (Ashmolean Museum and University of Oxford) 'Stealing Colours: Artists' Materials and Conservation Knowledge in the Aftermath of the Second World War'</p>	<p><i>Session 3 Special Collections Workshop (Part 1)</i> Max. x15 Special Collections Reading Room, McClay Library</p> <p>Exploratory workshop based around archival materials led by <b>Liz Haines</b> (University of Bristol).</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch – Canada Room, Lanyon Building		
14:00-15:30	<p><i>Session 1 Wax Fruit Workshop (Part 2)</i></p> <p>Crescent Arts Centre, University Road</p> <p>Hands-on workshop with historian of science <b>Marieke Hendriksen</b> (University of Utrecht) to explore forms of embodied knowledge through making wax fruit.</p>	<p><i>Session 2 Ways of Knowing</i></p> <p>Council Chamber, Lanyon</p> <p><b>Mat Paskins</b> (History of Science, LSE) 'Chemical Narratives: Beyond the Maze of Hexagons'</p> <p><b>Aisling Reid</b> (English, Queen's University, Belfast) 'Limitless Labyrinths: Mise en Abyme in Art and Literature'</p>	<p><i>Session 3 Special Collections Workshop (Part 2)</i> Max. x15 Special Collections Reading Room, McClay Library</p> <p>Exploratory workshop based around archival materials led by <b>Liz Haines</b> (University of Bristol).</p>
15:30-16:00	Coffee – Canada Room, Lanyon Building		
16:00-17:30	Keynote: <b>Pamela H. Smith</b> (History, Columbia University) 'Making and Knowing: Insights into Matter and Text from a Sixteenth-Century How-to Manuscript' Council Chamber, Lanyon Building		

## Conference Schedule